

REMARKS

The Office Action at page 2 indicates that the application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. The Office Action at page 2 further indicates that these species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The Office Action at page 2 further indicates that the species are as follows: Gamma-lactone solvents, and furfural solvents, levulinic acid solvents and furfural or levulinic acid derivative solvents. The Office Action at page 2 further indicates that the claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner: Claims 1-5 and 10-17 are directed towards gamma-lactone solvents. Claims 6-9 are directed towards furfural solvents, levulinic acid solvents and furfural or levulinic acid derivative solvents. The Office Action at page 2 further indicates that the following claim(s) are generic: currently, no claims appear to be generic.

The Office Action at page 3 further indicates that Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

Applicants note that Applicants' Preliminary Amendment under 37 CFR 1.115 filed on June 14, 2006 added new claims 18-20. Claims 18-20 depend from claims 2-4, respectively.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute claims 1-5 and 10-20, directed towards the species of gamma-lactone solvents. Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 6-9.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications or take such other action as deemed necessary with respect to the canceled claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above amendments and remarks to advance the above-identified application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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